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November 26, 2012

Hon. Elizabeth Stong  
Judge, United States Bankruptcy Court (E.D.N.Y.)  
Conrad B. Duberstein U.S. Courthouse  
271 Cadman Plaza East Suite 1595  
Brooklyn, NY 11201-1800

Re: In re, Sahara Khan, No. 10-46901-ESS  
Kramer v. Mahia, Adv. Proc. No. 11-1520-ESS

Sub: Motion for Sanctions under 28 U.S.C. §1927 against Karamvir Dahiya,  
Esq., and The Dahiya Law Offices, LLC

Your Honor:

We are counsel for Mr. Dahiya and his law firm, Dahiya Law Offices, LLC, in the United States District Court for Eastern District of New York, for the limited purpose of the motion for withdrawal of reference which was filed on November 19, 2012 (dkt. 50). The central issue on that motion is whether, under the circumstances presented, this Court has subject-matter jurisdiction over the 1927 motion seeking sanctions against Mr. Dahiya and his law firm.

It appears that this jurisdictional issue was first raised in this Court in April 2012, see dkt. 18. However, it has not been resolved. Nevertheless, by orders of June 14, 2012 (dkt. 26) and November 7, 2012, (dkt. 47), an evidentiary hearing has been scheduled for November 30, 2012, on the underlying 1927 motion.

This procedure is contrary to settled law and practice, and puts the proverbial cart before the horse.

[A] federal court may not ... decide a case on the merits before resolving whether the court has . . jurisdiction.

United States v. Miller, 263 F.3d 1, 4 n. 2 (2d Cir. 2001). Accord, EM Ltd. v Republic of

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Argentina, 695 F3d 201, 205 (2d Cir 2012) (“Before turning to the merits, we first address NML’s contention that we lack subject matter jurisdiction . . .”); Aladdin Capital Holdings, LLC v. Donoyan, 438 Fed. Appx. 14, 15 (2d Cir. 2011) (“We must first address whether we have . . . jurisdiction . . .”); Donohue v Mangano, 193 LRRM (BNA) 3345 (E.D.N.Y. Aug. 20, 2012) (“The Court will first address any questions as to jurisdiction, and will then proceed to assess the substantive merits of the motion . . .”).

Accordingly, we respectfully request that an order be entered canceling the evidentiary currently scheduled for November 30, 2012. Alternatively, at a minimum, the hearing should be adjourned sine die pending the District Court’s decision. Thank you for your attention.

Respectfully submitted,



Krishnan S. Chittur, Esq.

By letter dated November 26, 2012, newly retained counsel for Karamvir Dahiya, Esq. and the Dahiya Law Offices, LLC, requested the entry of an order “canceling the evidentiary [hearing] currently scheduled for November 30, 2012” or adjourning that hearing to an unspecified date, pending the district court’s determination of the motion to withdraw the reference.

The grounds for the request include the argument that this Court lacks subject matter jurisdiction to decide the motion for sanctions under 28 U.S.C. § 1927.

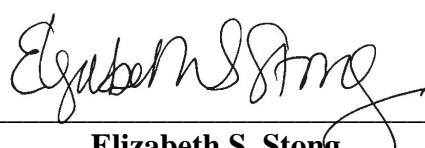
The request is denied. As this Court previously noted, “[t]he Second Circuit has held that a bankruptcy court may impose sanctions pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1927 if it finds that [an] attorney’s actions are so completely without merit as to require the conclusion that they must have been undertaken for some improper purpose such as delay.” In re Ambotiene, 316

B.R. 25, 34 n.2 (Bankr. E.D.N.Y. 2004) (quoting *Baker v. Latham Sparrowbush Assocs. (In re Cohoes Indus. Terminal, Inc.)*, 931 F.2d 222, 230 (2d Cir. 1991)), aff'd, 2005 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 45314 (E.D.N.Y. Sept. 30, 2005); see *In re Emanuel*, 2010 Bankr. LEXIS 590, at \*3 n.2 (Bankr. S.D.N.Y. Mar. 12, 2010) (stating that “bankruptcy courts may impose sanctions under 28 U.S.C. § 1927”); *In re Green*, 422 B.R. 469, 473 (Bankr. S.D.N.Y. 2010) (explaining that a bankruptcy court “has the power to sanction” under 28 U.S.C. § 1927). Accordingly, this Court finds that it may decide the motion for sanctions under 28 U.S.C. § 1927.

**IT IS SO ORDERED.**

Dated: Brooklyn, New York  
November 28, 2012



  
Elizabeth S. Stong  
United States Bankruptcy Judge